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SHOCHIKU

TRAVELLING TROUPE

"CHIRAGORO KAWARA NO TATEYUKI"

KABUKI PLAY

10.C.D. J-2037



by
8/28/46

ONE ACT

ENCLOSURE TROUPE

X X X X X X

Synopsis:

This is one of the most artistic works of kabuki plays. Warm humanistic feeling is depicted by representing a young, beautiful couple in a very poor hut. This young man and woman makes love each other. Their love scene is finished up with the appearance of a humorous, little monkey.

A prostitute Oshun is a daughter of a very poor house at Horikawa. Denbei, her fiancé, kills a man. He visits Oshun secretly before he is caught. Oshun explains the importance of observing the women's morale code to her mother and brother, who entirely forget duty and a good sense as human beings and don't want to make Oshun run away with Denbei. They understand the true way of living as human beings by Oshun's explanation, and give consent to them to run away from Kyoto together. And the monkey-leader, Yojiro, even celebrate them going out of the new world by letting the monkey play.

Characters:

A monkey-leader Yojiro
Izutsuya Denbei
Mother Ogin
Tanbaya Oshun
A pupil Otsuru
A monkey

Scene:

A very poor house. On the right part of the stage, there is a cage for a monkey. About on the center of the stage, there is a kitchen of the house. In front of a window of the house, there is a well. Otsuru, a pupil, is nodding by the side of this well. Curtain draws up with a song used for teaching. This song explains us that the dweller of this house is very poor and blind. She teaches Koto and Samisen (both are Japanese musical instruments) to the girls in the neighborhood and earns her living. This is a place called Horikawa, the suburbs of Kyoto which is then a capital city.

(Mother appears. She seems to have an eye-disease.)

Mother: Sorry to have kept you waiting. What part shall we learn to-day? Oh, I've remembered. Toribeyama is the subject for today. This deals with a double-suicide. If you want to play at a meeting, I think you'd better play apart of a woman, and Oshige-san, a part of a man. Well, shall I ~~xx~~ play a part of a man in place of Oshige-san?

(They begin to play.)

(They sing together the first part of the song which describes the beautiful features of a woman, main character of this song. Then mother sings a part of a man. The man, another main character of this song, is beautiful and only twenty-one years old. He

falls in love with a woman and makes up his mind to commit a double-suicide with a woman. Before he exercise this actually, he reflects upon the bustle and amusement of the frivolous society at Gion-machi, Kyoto.

Tsuru: (sings out a part of a woman) "Whenever I think that gay society--".

Mother: No, no; you have not at all a pathetic tone. Hear! "Whenever I think of that gay society ----"

Mother: That's good. (sings out)
"I remember, Some-dono, the last fall when you and I met secretly on the excuse of dancing." Well, so borth for today's leasson. Since you practiced very hard, now you made much progress. You can play at any meeting proudly.

Tsuru: (smiling) Thank you, madam. I'll come to you tomorrow. (She enters into the greenroom from the left side of the stage)

(There appears Yojiro hurriedly.)

(He dresses poorly and he has a small hundle and a monkey on his back, while having a rod in his hand and a ring putting around his ~~wast~~ waist.)

Yojiro: Mother! I've just returned.

Mother: Oh, you have! You must be very hungry. Here's tea, and there's the supper for you. (to the monkey.) Oh, you've returned, too! Your baby has been nery noisy from the morning in looking for you, mother monkey. You'd better go near to your baby monkēy.

Yojiro: (enters the house) I guess, I guess. Now you may give milk to your baby. (puts the monkey into the cage.)

Mother: Now, Yojiro, whenever I think of how good a son you are, I cannot help being anxious if I shall recover from this disease of many years. I wonder if I can take care of myself with my poor fee for teaching and the sympathy of my pupils -----.

(There heard a song which describes the mother's feeling and gesture. Mother is afraid of herself being a burden to her good son, and weeps bitterly.)

Yojiro: Oh, no, no, Mother! Why do you say such a thing? You say that you earn so little. But one of you pupils, the son of a rice-dealer, sent me rice of a super ~~ex~~ quality, saying that I must be in need of such things for you are ill for many years. And there's a shop-master who ~~and~~ offered me kind help and even said to me that he would make you live in his retreat if you want. I can get any eatables freely. You need not a bit to be anxious. Still poorer is the owner of this house. The other day he begged me to buy this house. But I didn't accept his wish, for I think it would be better for us to be rich than to be a house-owner.

(He tells a lie for he doesn't, want to make his mother be anxious, while, mother knows that her son telling a lie. But she nods heartily.)

Mother: I'm settled now, but I would never be at ease when I think of my daughter. The other day, Oshun's master came with her to leave her here for a while, and said that he could not make Oshun live in his shop for a while because of the customer called Denbei. And he told me over again that I should never make Oshun meet Denbei, if he comes to visit her.

Yojiro: Well, I've heard the whole story. I cannot help crying when I think of Oshun's feeling -----.
Now, I'll light the lamp.

(He puts light and calls to the inside "Oshun, Oshun!")

Oshun: Yes, here I am.

(She appears from the inside of the house x sorrowfully.)

Yojiro: Now, sit here. (in a low voice.)

(He looks the door of the entrance of the house and comes back to the former seat and begins to talk with Oshun.)

Yojiro: The door is locked. No one can hear nor look. Well, I have heard people saying that the man who killed his opponent in their quarrel on the river-banks was ----, yes, he was our customer, Denbei. At first, Kyuhachi, as being indebted to Denbei, was caught in place of Denbei, But the small sword left at the spot of that quarrel was proved Denbei's which had been given to him by his master. So the authorities are now looking for Denbei to catch. But just from that night, Denbei concealed himself. It is also well known that Denbei's sweet heart is a prostitute called Oshun. Authorities knew it and inquired to her parent where she wa. The parent said the place where she is

now. People speak about such romours. Whenever I hear them saying this, I feel unsettled.

Oshun: (feels like weeping) The cause of that quarrel was I ----.
(cannot utter a word more for her heart being full with the yearning for him and anxiety about his future.)

Mother: (filled with love for her ~~her~~ daughter.) I say, Oshun. You needn't be so anxious. But I haven't been able to sleep at all these nights, for I was afraid lest he should come to this house and kill you being desperate, or he should make you commit a double-suicide as people often do. If you do such things, what shall I do? For I, your mother, is blind and your elder brother is such a good-natured one. I wouldn't care if I must ~~beg~~ beg to others to live, but I cannot live any longer, if the dreaded event should happen to your body. You should never do silly act. I pray you not to make this old mother be miserable, you being influenced by your unnecessary sense of obligation to him.

(recites the Buddhist Sutras weeping.)

Yojiro: Now, Oshun, just as mother has said now, you needn't feel sense of obligation to him. He is entirely an unrelated person, once you undo your connection with him. I, too, cannot eat even what I like best. I pray you like this, Oshun, to undo your connection with him, to relieve mother's anxiety and also to save me.

Oshun: (being impressed by her mother and brother's entreat, she thinks of a plan to shift this moment. But actually she feels that anyway she should die.)
I understand your words well, mother and elder brother. Denbei-san is a mere customer and I have not specially deep connection with him. (But she cannot abandon him because he is now on the edge of declining. This is the duty as a prostitute.)
I can't have any hope for our future. So I'll meet him once again and say good bye to him in a roundabout way not to offend him nor degenerate my dignity.

Mother: No, it's not a good idea. What will you do if he wouldn't accept your apology obediently?

Yojiro: I'm afraid if he would kill you by way of an extra job. So we can never make you meet with him.

Mother: Oh, yes. Your elder brother is right. I cannot stand if you are hurt. You'd better abandon Denbei-san before you -----.

Yojiro: For him -----.

Mother: Yes, it's better for him, too, if you abandon him. If not, he would come around this house to glance at you, and be caught sooner or later. But if you send a letter of your abandoning him, he would, too, resign the idea of having connection with you ----.

Yojiro: Yes, that's so.

Mother: ----- and if he runs away to a distant place and conceals himself, he might escape from being put into jail. Well, well, I think it's be hard for you to write such a letter, but, do write just a word. Hey, brother! Take that ink-stone case for her, at once.

(Jojiro brings out an ink-stone case and urge Oshun to write.)

Yojiro: Now, do write, do write.

(Oshun, being unbearable of the urgent recommendation of Mother and brother, she begins to write her whole heart out, concealing her tearful face. Yojiro, not knowing what she is writing, speaks out.)

Yojiro: I say, Oshun. You needn't write such a long letter. I think it'd be enough just to write "I will abandon you."

Mother: Oh, no. A letter remains for a long time. So you'd better write so precisely a letter that he would be able to understand the circumstances fully.

Oshun: Yes, yes. I've explained the case very minutely. Brother! won't you hand this letter to Denbei-san?

Yojiro: O.K. I'm encouraged by this letter. This will settle everything. Well, mother, you'd better take things at ease. Oh, it's already about nine o'clock. You together with mother had better go to bed.

Mother: That's an idea. I think I can sleep well to night,
and you, brother, sleep there, too.

(She enters into the inner room.)

Yojiro: Oshun, let's sleep here.

Oshun: Yes, brother.

(He sets a bed for Oshun, and he himself lies on a large huroshiki, a cloth-wrapper, and puts his dress over his body. Oshun, though lying on the bed, cannot sleep and is weeping bitterly. Night is far advanced and the chime of a temple telling the time passing by is heard lonely at a distance. It is a beautiful moonlight night of December. There appears Denbei stealthily. He stands in front of the gate and hems as he usually does. Hearing this hem, Oshun gets up at once. Yojiro doesn't notice at all. Oshun, after confirming that he is fast asleep, puts out light and goes out of the house to unlock the gate door.

Denbei: Aren't you Oshun?

Oshun: You are Denbei-san. Oh, how well you have come to see me!
(Yojiro wakes up suddenly and goes out of the house at once. But taking Denbei for Oshun, lets Denbei come into the inside of the gate and shuts the door of the gate closely.)

Yojiro: Here comes Denbei to stick Oshun. Oshun! you should never come out of the house. I'll hold the door. I say, you are Denbei who is outside the gate, aren't you? I would never let you come into my house. (He is trembling.)

Oshun: I say, brother, it is I who is outside of the gate.

Yojiro: What? "It is I who is outside of the gate." You needn't imitate her voice. I won't be deceived by such an act. Mother, mother! Here comes Denbei to kill Oshun. I've pushed him out, but I cannot deal with him alone with myself. Come and help me, please. Help! Help!

(Mother comes out of the house.)

Mother: Is there any person other than Denbei outside the gate? (she gropes for Denbei) I say, Oshun. You needn't tremble. Be settled. Mother and brother will help you. (pats the back and notices that it's not Oshun.)

Oh, I say, Yojiro, I'm afraid if any one comes inside the gate under cover of darkness. Holds it tightly. I'll light the lamp. (she puts light on the lamp.) Oh, dear me! It's not your sister, but Denbei.

Denbei: Mother and brother! I'm very sorry to appear before you in such a miserable attire. (He still crouches in the corner.)

Yojiro: Hey! Denbei! I won't be deceived however ~~meekly~~ meekly you may behave. I know your design to kill Oshun, but you cannot exercise your plan. (He takes out a letter from his breast pocket of his dress and comes near to Denbei timidly.) I say, Denbei, if you would still have the connection with my sister, she would be in distress for you are the criminal. So, I moved my sister to write a letter to ~~to~~ abandon you. See, here's that letter. This shows that she has no more affection towards you.

Denbei: Did Oshun write that letter?

Yojiro: Yes, here it is.

Denbei: Oh, how silly I am to have followed after her as far as this place, not knowing her real mind. (He is mortified at her behavior and cries biting his lips.)

Oshun: (from the outside of the gate) It's quite natural that you angry so much, But Denbei-san, be settled! and please read my letter to you carefully.

Yojiro: Yes, you'd better do so. I want to read for you, but I'm sorry to say that I'm entirely ignorant. So read this at once with yourself.

(Yojiro binds the letter at the top of a stick near him and puts it out toward Denbei.)

Denbei: What? A will?

Yojiro: Eh! a will?

Mother: We won't be deceived, if you try to make us upset by saying "will" as I'm blind and Yojiro is ignorant. You can never treat my daughter as you like. Now, read at once! Read! And you, Yojiro, be careful not to open the door, so that he can never come near her.

Yojiro: Yes, O.K. I'll stick to this door. Now read it out. Though I cannot write, I can hear, I'm not ignorant. Read, read!

Denbei: Dear mother, thank you very much for your bringing up me up to this age. How can I express my deep

gratitude to you? I've been always praying that dear mother can spend her life comfortably, and I've been trying hard to realize my wish to be dutiful to my parent. But, unfortunately, this time my fiance Denbei-sama committed an unexpected crime whose cause was entirely for me. So I cannot abandon him now. It'll be entirely against women's moral code, if I behave like that. I know it's undutiful to mother, if I go away and take the same path with him, but I cannot help making up my mind in this way."

Mother: Oh, my heart is almost to be broken out. Well, go on, please.

Denbei: "I said before that I would write a letter to abandon Denbei-sama, for I wished to leave this letter behind me. Dear mother, please forgive me and resign me for this is my destiny given by god. I want to say more, but I can't express them in words. So hurriedly I've only written this.

Yours affectionately,

Oshun

Well, now I can read your true heart!

(Mother and Yojiro are confused.)

Mother: Oh, I'm anxious about her. I say, Yojiro, let my daughter in quickly.

(Mother is entirely upset. Yojiro hastily opens the door of the gate. Oshun runs into and all four cling each other and cry.)

Denbei: How glad I am! I'm very much obliged that you behaved so faithfully to our promise. I'll never forget your fidelity. But the more I reflect upon myself, the more I cannot help realizing that I'm a criminal and you are innocent -----.

Oshun: (burst into tears) Oh, you are wrong! You shouldn't say such a thing!

Song: "We plighted ourselves each other and we have no secret between us. I'm his wife. How can I depart from my husband when he is in distress! I want to observe the ~~woman's~~ women's moral code. I don't care if you think of me as an undutiful daughter or a bad woman. Please give up about me ----- "

Oshun: Let me go with him, mother!

Yojiro: Oh, what's the matter? I cannot see at all. Now you are firmer than Denbei-dono. Oh, what shall I do? (He is all upset.)

Mother: I'm very sorry that I have neglected my duty and urged my daughter to abandon a man who had taken much care of Oshun. I've entirely forgotten the duty as a human being for I've been blind by the love towards my daughter. I'm very much ashamed of myself in the face of my daughter, who, though a prostitute, tried to observe the women's moral code. I would say not a word any more. You may go with Denbei-san wherever you like. Now, Denbei-sama, I think you know the parent's love. Let alone human being, even birds and animals love their children very much. If your parents hear that you caught, I think they will be very sad and will not feel

like being left behind. So I entreat you please take my ~~daughter~~ daughter with you to any distant places. I don't like to put my daughter on the topics of people, but I'll let her go with you for I'm ashamed of my selfish love when I know my daughter's true heart. Please guess my feeling as a parent.---. Now I pray you, entreat you like this.

(Mother prays with her hands pressed together. They cling each other and cry.)

Yojiro: It's quite natural that Denbei-san cries, it's natural that Oshun cries and you, mother, you're deserved to cry like that, too. Well, Denbei-sama, do you understand what my mother said just now? And you, too, Oshun? Do both of you understand well? Fully?

(Both of them nod.)

Well, if you understand, you'd better leave here at once. But you will be distinguished at once, if you are in such dresses. Until you go out of Ryoto city, you'd better wear these braided hats. (hands the braided hats to them) This Yojiro, the monkey-leader, will make the monkey play to celebrate you to be a happy couple. (He takes down a bottle of wine from the shelf of the family gods, and takes out the monkey from the cage, and begins to make it play.)

"Monkey is an auspicious animal."

(Monkey walks around with dignity as if it were a bride.)

"Oh, Tokubei-san, you are so late that Ohatsu-san becomes red with anger. Well, Ohatsu-san, you must restore your good humor and accept your bride's cup of wine for he wants to pass you a cup of wine."

(Monkey brings about a cup to Denbei with it's feet.)

Oh, you are very rude. You mustn't bring out a cup with your feet, Then you'd better give that cup to the bridegroom with your hands.

(It brings about a cup to Oshun with it's hands.)

That's good. "The bridegroom took enough wine and begins to take a nap." (Monkey lies on the ground.)

"Husband is too cold and would not to make her get up. So you'd better make her get up."

(Monkey rises up.) That's right. That's right.

"Now you turn around and around. And mark the signs of weather while you are standing up. After that you may sit down if you like." "Monkey is a very auspicious animal. Now you'd better leave this house at once.

(Yojiro, the monkey-leader sings the song. Mother, though cannot see, sees them off praying their future life, and says good-bye in her heart trying to memorize their words and voices to her heart.)

Denbei: We will be the topics of tomorrow.

Yojiro: You are now in disguise as if you are an old couple.

(Yojiro, while making the monkey play, puts rice into the lunchon-boxes and wraps it with cloth and hands them to both of them and hands the leggings to Denbei. He opens the door, looks up to the sky and makes a gesture for them to run away at once. Oshun and Denbei comes out of the gate. Both of them look very hard to leave this house but begin to walk sorrowfully. The chime of a temple is heard.)

----- Curtain -----